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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US ARMY COMBAT DEVELOPMENTS COMMAND  
Liaison Detachment, Hq USARV  
APO San Francisco 96375

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CDCCS-LV

11 16 April 1968

SUBJECT: Trip Report (CDCCS) - 9th Infantry Division, 12 April 1968.

SEE DISTRIBUTION

⑫ 5p.

⑭ Trip-26-68

WAS VISITED

1. In response to a request from the Combat Service Support Group, the undersigned and LTC Harper visited the 9th Infantry Division, on 12 April 1968, to discuss various aspects of logistical, medical, and chaplain functions.

2. The following persons were contacted:

Major General Ewell	-	CG, 9th Inf Div
Colonel Hughes	-	CO, 9th DISCOM
LTC Blackwell	-	Surgeon, 9th Inf Div
LTC Wood	-	Chaplain, 9th Inf Div
LTC Williams	-	Chaplain, 9th Inf Div
MAJ Holt	-	Asst G4, 9th Inf Div

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3. The following areas of interest were discussed:

a. The DA Board of Inquiry on the Army Logistics System (Brown Board), considered that the lack of explicit, comprehensive and detailed doctrine has led to misconception and misunderstanding as to the roles played by the division G4 and the division support command commander. Is reorganization necessary? (USA CDCSA).

b. How well do current medical doctrine, organization and materiel meet unit needs in riverine operations in the Vietnam Delta? (USACDCMSA).

c. Should all army divisions have an organic aero-medical evacuation capability? (USACDCMSA)

d. Determine the type of operational control of division chaplain personnel by the division chaplain. (USACDCCA).

4. In response to paragraph 3a, above, the Commanding Officer, Division Support

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Command and assistant G4 gave the following information:

a. The Support Commander considers the current organization, as authorized by TOE, is adequate to accomplish the required logistical functions. He emphasized that the division G4 is primarily a planner and coordinator, while the support commander is concerned with daily operations. Minor problem areas that may appear, such as personalities and the over eagerness of some staff officers that attempt to work directly with the battalions of the support command, are easily overcome. Rather than reorganize, it would be better to refine the current system. The Commanding Officer did feel that it might be appropriate to retitle the Support Command to a "Support Brigade". The rationale for the title "Support Brigade" would be primarily for prestige and to put the Support Brigade Commander on the same level as the other maneuver brigades in the division. The commander prefers the present method of operation rather than the two proposals considered in the fact sheet. The commander feels, although he is still required to make recommendations and keep abreast of the current planning actions, he can concentrate more on daily operations. The 9th Division Support Command has two additional organizations that are not in the present TOE, Division Administration Company and the Reliable Academy. The Administration Company is assigned to the Support Command for discipline, health, and welfare of the troops and the support commander acts as a buffer for the Admin Company Commander (CPT) in his dealings with the division staff. The Reliable Academy acts as a holding area, processing detachment (in-coming and out-going personnel), and is responsible for the conduct of environmental individual and unit training for newly assigned personnel. At any one given time there are normally 400 to 500 personnel processing and training in the academy. The support commander believes that a unit of this type should be organic to each division, in order to centralize the holding, processing, orientation of newly arrived and out-going personnel and to free the brigade commanders of the responsibility for training newly arrived replacements. The unit as organized by the 9th Division has some functions comparable to the previously authorized division replacement company. As a matter of efficiency, the replacement section from the Administration Company is attached to the Reliable Academy.

b. Response from the Assistant G4: The current method of operation in the 9th Division is satisfactory, however, the Assistant G4, stated that in his opinion the proposal as forwarded to Vietnam by CDCSA; which gave consideration to moving the G4 section to the DISCOM seems to have considerable merit. The big advantage as seen by the Asst G4, is the capability of the G4 section to coordinate directly with the battalions of the DISCOM without going through the

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DISCOM staff. The Asst G4 did specify that the G4 must still remain on the division staff, but he would in effect represent the DISCOM commander. This procedure is the two-hat concept as used by other elements of the division, e.g., Signal, Engineer, and Aviation Battalions.

5. In response to paragraphs 3b and c above, the Division Surgeon gave the following information: Both of these areas are interrelated within the 9th Infantry Division, and the Division Surgeon is presently preparing a study that will provide statistical data to support recommendations for both of these areas. The Division Surgeon estimates that the study will be completed within two weeks and a copy will be forwarded when received. In the area of riverine operations the Division Surgeon feels that a clearing station should be established on a boat with sufficient personnel and equipment to perform emergency operations. This would require an augmentation of an additional surgeon and qualified staff members. Under this concept the division would have their own organic aero-medical evacuation helicopters with division field regulators aboard to determine what level of medical treatment is required. If the patient stays in the division medical chain the dust-off helicopter could evacuate to the floating clearing station if required. The purpose of this method is to retain as many casualties as possible within the division medical facilities, consistent with sound medical treatment procedures. The surgeon believes that this will reduce the number of days that a unit is short personnel because of through-put evacuation and the somewhat lengthy process required to drop the patient from the assigned strength and requisition a replacement. As pointed out by the surgeon, the discussion outlined above is an opinion only, and specific recommendations must await the completion of the aforementioned study.

6. In response to paragraph 3d above, the Division Chaplain gave the following information:

a. The division chaplain considers the present method of assigning chaplains, e.g., to brigade, division, separate battalion by TOE, as inefficient in the Mekong Delta environment. For example when there are a large number of troops concentrated in one area (normally base camps) there is no requirement for separate units, such as the engineer battalion or division artillery, to have organizational chaplains since a fewer number of chaplains could provide adequate services on an area basis. Conversely the division cavalry squadron, which is not authorized a chaplain, is presently operating some distance from the division base camp and still requires the services of a chaplain. Because of the nature of the conflict, road nets are not always open to single vehicular traffic, thereby making it extremely difficult for a chaplain to move from one organization to

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another. The chaplain believes that a better system for chaplain assignment is to prepare cellular teams in the 500 series TOE. These teams may consist of an "A" team with catholic, protestant, and jewish chaplains, the "B" team would contain catholic and protestant chaplains, while "C" teams would be a number of one chaplain teams designated either as catholic, protestant, or jewish. A division would request and assign these teams based on the division's mission, area of operations and assignment of battalions within brigades. The division chaplain would act as manager and move the teams to various locations as required in order to provide necessary services. Under this concept, base camps could be serviced by perhaps one "A" team, one brigade may require a "B" team, with the separate battalions to be serviced with "C" teams. If necessary, these teams may be combined to service one brigade if the task assignment of maneuver battalions so dictate.

b. Additional areas discussed are as follows:

(1) The new organ being received by the division is not adequate, the pitch is too high for male voices, the tone is raspy and changing the stops does not affect the pitch.

(2) The chaplain spoke quite highly of the currently authorized loud-speaker system.

(3) A special plea was made by the chaplains requesting that the US Army develop and publish three prayer books, (Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish) that can be issued to troops in the field. At Inclosure 1 is a prayer book that is being purchased for seventy-five cents each from the chaplains fund and given to the personnel within the division. It was stressed that this book is of exceptional quality and could very well be used as a guide for preparation of US Army books.

(4) Each chaplain should be authorized by TOE, a combination battery powered and electric powered taperecorder. The recorder would be used by the chaplain to play hymns for services in remote areas where provisions for an organ can not be made.

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*Richard C. Hays*  
for DONALD L. GREEN  
LTC, GS (EN)  
Senior Liaison Officer

CDCCS-LV  
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